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NIO/Africa  
27 February 1987Mozambique Example

On 21 April 1986, Assistant Secretary of Defense Armitage requested an update of a 1985 SNIE on Mozambique and indicated several areas of concern, most notably the possibility of increased Soviet/Cuban involvement. The DDCI responded in a memo noting that a Memorandum to Holders of the Mozambique SNIE would be undertaken which would encompass the concerns posed by Mr. Armitage.

Memorandum to Holders of SNIE 72.3-85: Mozambique: Short-Term Prospects was published in June 1986.

This Estimate produced as policy-relevant conclusions the following: President Machel would probably remain in power over the next 12 months, he was reluctant to call for Cuban troops, Soviet support would remain about the same, US and Western influence would likely decline over the next year as Machel increasingly turned to Soviet allies to shore up his regime, and the Mozambique government was somewhat disappointed in the magnitude of Western economic aid.

There was no serious attempt by policymakers to affect the conclusions, although the AF Bureau in State was unhappy with the assessment of RENAMO as a growing movement with wide popular support in central Mozambique.

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